Comparison of Public, Charter, Private Schools

	Public School	Charter School	Private School
Acceptance of Students	Must accept all students. There is some provision with regard to behavior.	Must accept all students.	Acceptance of students depends upon various factors including behavior and ability.
Accountability	No Child Left Behind legislation, U-PASS, other normed tests	No Child Left Behind legislation, U-PASS, other normed tests as outlined in the charter.	No regulatory standards exist. School is accountable to the parents.
Accreditation	Required	Required. R277-410, R277-411, R277-412	Not required
Costs of Attendance to Student	No charge. Elementary schools may not assess any fees. Secondary schools assess fees for activities, supplies, books, etc.	No charge. May not assess fees. Same as public.	Costs of attendance include tuition, transportation, and fees. Fees include books, supplies, uniforms, activities, etc. Some schools offer a limited number of scholarships.
Curriculum	Legal restrictions exist concerning topics and presentation of certain subject matter (religion, sexual education, hygiene practices, etc.)	Some legal restrictions exist. Same as public unless waiver is granted.	No legal restrictions exist. Predominately, private schools present academic subjects through religious perspectives.
Equalization	Public education in Utah provides an equitable distribution of funding and taxation for students and taxpayers.	The equity provided by the state to the district is replicated to some degree in the charter school(s) within that district.	Equalization of resources to students does not exist. The costs associated with attending private schools are driven by market forces, including competition.
Provision of Choice	Students may attend schools outside of their neighborhood, or home district. Other choices include charter schools, private schools, concurrent enrollment, advanced placement, distance learning, gifted and talented, etc.	Students may choose to attend charter schools that focus on a specific style of learning and/or curriculum.	Though parents may choose to send their children to a private school, private schools ultimately decide who will attend.
Rural Students	Public education is available to rural students and provides specific provisions for the schools that must exist in remote locations.	Available where charter schools exist.	Available where private schools exist.